

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/> 25X1A
SUBJECT	Communications System of the Soviet 4th Guards Mechanized Army. 25X1A	DATE DISTR.	23 February 1954
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1X

1. The Soviet headquarters in Eberswalde, and those in the area of the 4th Gds. Mecz. Army, had an automatic (dial) and switchboard system. The automatic system was called "short communications" and was used for units in the same town; the switchboard system was called "long distance communications" and serviced all units of the 4th Gds. Mecz. Army through the switchboard of the 4th Gds. Mecz. Army.
2. A direct line existed between the 4th Gds. Mecz. Army headquarters and Moscow. Conversations were held in code. The line could be used only by the army commander, and the chief of staff, and the member of the Army Council of the 4th Gds. Mecz. Army.
3. Code names of the formations, switchboards, and branches of the 4th Gds. Mecz. Army were as follows:
 - a. "Desna" (gum): the switchboard of the Finow garrison. It was operated by personnel of the 108th Separate Signal Battalion.
 - b. "Lenta" (ribbon): since 1952, the code name for the main switchboard of Headquarters, 4th Gds. Mecz. Army. Before 1952, the code name of this switchboard was "Sadovnik" (gardener).
 - c. "Kama" (name of river): this was the code name for the switchboard of Rear Services of Headquarters, 4th Gds. Mecz. Army, until 1951. Source is unable to remember the new code word.
 - d. "Ugol" (coal): the unit using this code was unknown to source.
 - e. "Obloko" (cloud): Headquarters, 63rd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Division.
 - f. "Traktor": the 468th Tank Repair Shop.
 - g. "Volga": a switchboard in the Fuerstenwalde area.

25X1A

SECRET

25X1A

SECRET

- 2 -

4. In order to contact an officer on the switchboard system, it was necessary to call the unit switchboard, be connected with the main switchboard of the 4th Gds. Mecz. Army, then with the switchboard of the desired unit, and, finally, ask for the officer by name. For instance, if source was in Finow and wanted to call Colonel Konovod, commanding officer of the 63rd Anti-Aircraft Division, in Eberswalde, he would call Desna (the Finow garrison switchboard), demand "Lenta" (the main switchboard of the 4th Gds. Mecz. Army), then ask for "Obloko" (the switchboard of the 63rd Anti-Aircraft Division) and ask for Colonel Konovod by name. If, however, he wanted to call someone in Frankfurt/Oder, Finow, or Eberswalde, he could dial it directly on the short communications system. However, not all officers or units had a short communications number. Source recalls that the phone number 462 was that of Lieutenant Colonel Romashkin, commanding officer of the motor vehicle department in Eberswalde.